

TO THE
FREE CITIZENS,

AND

K. Lucas (C.)

FREE-HOLDERS,

OF THE

CITY of DUBLIN.

The Third EDITION.



DUBLIN:

Printed for JAMES KELBURN in
George's Lane, 1748.



To the FREE CITIZENS, and FREE-
HOLDERS, of the CITY of DUB-
LIN.

AS the place of a CITIZEN, to represent you in Parliament, is become Vacant, by the Death of the late, Sir *James Somerville*, Bart; I think it, incumbent on every Free Man, to offer his best Sentiments, on this important, I may say, critical Occasion, to your Consideration; therefore, I cannot be Silent.

To Serve a BRAVE, FREE PEOPLE, in any Capacity, is truly honorable: To be, *freely*, returned to serve such, in the GREAT REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF THE NATION, is, no doubt, a most honorable Vocation: --- But it is so, only to that Representative, who has the Virtue to assert the RIGHTS and LIBERTIES of his CONSTITUENTS; for otherwise, he must become a Reproach to himself, as well as to them. But, to come into Parliament, by any *Degree* of *Corruption*, by any sort of *Sinister Influence*, or by any other means, than a *fair, Popular, a true*, Election, will, I hope, ever be deemed below the Dignity of a CITIZEN of *Dublin*, as it must be an indelible Disgrace to any Man: *Corruption* and *Venality* in Elections, being the great, I had almost said, the only, *Inlet*, by which *Court-Dependence* and *Slavery*, which must end in *Tyranny*, can have access, to the Subversion of our civil Constitution.

It has pleased Providence, so far to infatuate, or frustrate the Attempts of those, who have labored, with more *Affiduity* and *Industry*, to over-turn, than most have to Preserve, this Constitution, that it is, yet, our own Faults, if we do not retain, and improve, the *little Portion* of Liberty left us. And to our peculiar honor and Happiness, we are the only Body Corporate in the Kingdom, that have
preserved

Preserved our INDEPENDENCE, in Elections; and consequently, where a PASSAGE to the *highest* Offices in the State, is, yet, kept open to the *lowest* Citizen. These, MY BRETHREN, are great, invaluable Privileges! Which, if once lost, you can never hope to regain, and which, if duly Husbanded, cannot fail of procuring, and securing lasting Blessings to OUR CITY, in particular, as well as to the Nation in general.

These abrupt Hints, if duly considered, will shew you, that you are not to look out for a fit Representative among these, alone, who are most forward in *Supplicating* or *Bidding* for your *Votes*, your *Favor*, or your *Interest*. You are to ELECT, among your BRETHREN and FELLOWS, whether or no you are Solicited by any. You are to CHUSE, for your Selves, a CITIZEN, as your honest and unbiassed Hearts direct. Every virtuous Member of your Community, is bound by Principle, as well as by Law, to Serve every Office in the City, to which he is *regularly*, *fairly* called. In this Sense, every *good* Citizen must always be a CANDIDATE, for every Office you can confer on him, from the *lowest* in the City, to the *highest* in the State. Whoever then, appears, among the Citizens, best qualified to serve you; whoever best understands the National, as well as civil Constitution; can best ascertain the PREROGATIVE of the PRINCE, and the RIGHTS and LIBERTIES of the SUBJECT, and who has the best, known, Ability, and the most manifest Intention, at the Hazard of all that he can enjoy on Earth, to keep up those Boundaries, strictly and inviolably; he of common Right, demands your Voice, and from SUCH A CITIZEN, he is *perjured* and *profligate*, that *with-holds* his Vote, and much more, that *Sells*, or *gives* it, for any *selfish*, or *private* Consideration, to *another*. The Man chosen on these

Prin ciples,

Principles, is bound to exert himself, in your Service, by every Obligation ; whether Politic, moral or Religious : Whereas, he who, by any other means, *Purchases* the Voices of a People, cannot be called their Representative. For, whatever the Trifles may be, which he *barters* for them, the very *Electors* become his *private Property* ; he is not to be looked on, as their *Servant*, or *Delegate* ; he is absolutely their *Master* or *Owner* ; and they are not to be justly deemed his *Electors* ; they are his *Venal Slaves* and *Prostitutes*. And, tho' this be the most illicit, base, and destructive *Trade*, yet, who has a right to Reproach the *Buyer*, for exposing the *Commodity* to *Sale*, which he *bought*, probably, for that Purpose ?

Let not then, MY BRETHREN, *Seeming Security beget Sloth*. Look about you, and see, if we do not bear many, too evident marks of a *declining*, I might have said, an *enslaved State* ! The freest People are constantly beset with sundry imminent dangers of falling into *Slavery*. We cannot, therefore, be too vigilant, too active, in preserving the *Remnant* of Freedom left us : Since we can not be assured, that this is not the very last time we may be called together, as *free Men*, to *choose* for our selves a Representative. Remember you have had a Parliament, which changed your national Constitution, from the *Original Frame*, of KING, LORDS and COMMONS, to the KING, by his *Vice-gerent*, Lords, Commons and Privy-Council of Ireland ; together with his *Royal Person* and *Privy-Council* in England ? Did not another, grant *hereditary* Revenues to the Crown ? Did not a third suffer, without opposition, or even, murmuring, the SUPREME COURT of JUDICATURE to be removed out of the Kingdom ? And was it not proposed, within the Memory of most of the Citizens, in a fourth, that the Subsidies should be granted to the Crown,

Crown, for twenty one Years ; which was carried in the negative, by the *single Voice* of ONE PATRIOT, who rode Post to save his Country, and just entered the House, time enough to give his *Saving Voice*?---What has once happened, may again---- I could say more, but these are enough to shew you, what we have already suffered, by the *Corruption* or *Supineness* of our *Commons*, and what we are still to dread from those Quarters, and to prompt you to the necessary *Prudence*, and *Caution*, as well, as *Freedom* in your Choice.

The first Preparatory to this, is due Deliberation. As you are Freemen, think as Freemen, judge, and finally, determine, as Freemen.

Your Representative must be a *CITIZEN* ; consider who is, and who is not a *CITIZEN*. Not every Man, who for Views best, and fit only to be, known to himself, purchases his Freedom of your City, deserves this, once, great Appellation. No ; these are the *Harpies* that have already overturned all the Corporations, in the Kingdom ; and wish for nothing more than to reduce yours to the same wretched Level : Who gape for the many Places the Ministry have at their disposal, and seek for nothing more, than to gratify their *sordid Desires*, by sucking out the very *VITALS* of their Country. Such ; *MY BRETHREN*, cannot represent you, nor, indeed any People properly. A *Trading City* can only be represented by a *TRADESMAN*, and while a *Tradesman* can be found, fit for your purpose, You cannot, without an unpardonable Injustice, to him, to yourselves, and to your Country, overlook him.

There is, with Grief I tell it ! one Class of Men, partly, in Trade, in your City, that are utterly unfit to represent you I believe you will readily judge, I mean the Board of *Aldermen*. Had these *Creatures* of the Citizens kept within the Bounds
prescribed

prescribed them, at their Institution, by their *Constituents*; had they been still *elected* by the *People* or their *Representatives*, and executed the Trust and Powers, in them reposed, for the *Honor* and *Interest* of the Citizens, *some* of these Men, *supposed* to have grown Wise in the Service of the City, may well be intitled to your Favor. But I must say, that however amable these Men, or any of them, may, possibly, appear, in their private Capacities, yet, as *Aldermen*, they are *professed Slaves* to the *Ministry*, and *Tyrants* to the CITIZENS. Whatever excuse they might have pleaded for their insufferable *Usurpations*, heretofore, they have none now. It is confessed at *Law*, and is undeniable in *Fact*, that they with-hold an ORIGINAL, INHERENT RIGHT of the COMMONS and CITIZENS, contrary to *Law*, *Equity*, and *good Conscience*. And it is plain, that rather than let the Commons and Citizens, the *only lawfull*, the *Charter Governors* of the *Hospital* for reduced Citizens and their Children, have any share in the Government thereof, they have *illegally* and *unjustly* excluded them, and cover this shameful *Usurpation*, by calling in *Lords*, *Judges* and other Men in Power. By which means the spurious Off-spring of the meanest of the People are now preferred and provided for, on this *Foundation*, laid by the *Citizens*; many of whose Children, tho' by Misfortunes, reduced to the lowest Extremities of Life, are left *neglected* and *abandoned*. Can any Man who *countenances* this *Tyranny*, this *Perfedy*, and *unnatural Cruelty*, be deemed a Friend to a FREE CITY, or a fit Representative for a FREE PEOPLE? ---No Man in his Senses can suspect it.---So that, let them be ever so strongly *hemmed* in, by Men in Power, and attempted to be *palmed* upon you, by their *Influence* or *Authority*, you must be absolutely void of all Sense of *Freedom*, *Justice*, and *common Right*,

Right, as well as all regard to *YOUR CITY* and *YOUR COUNTRY*, and run retrograde to *VIR-TUE* and *LIBERTY*, it's self, before you can *Prostitute* your Voices, to bring any of them into Parliament.

I conjure you then, *MY BRETHREN* and *FELLOW CITIZENS*, that as you are yet blessed with *FREEDOM*, you will, in every Sense, preserve it. Act cautiously with all Men. Trust none, till you prove them. Engage in no *Party* or *Faction*: *TRUTH* and *LIBERTY* neither require nor admit of *such Supports*. Determine to *chuse* from *Principle*, and he but *Insults* you, that would *extort a Promise* for a *Vote*. He that has conscious *Merit*, will scorn to demand a *Promise*; nor will he direct his *Addresses* to the *Gentlemen*, *Clergy*, *Free-holders* and *Freemen*; as he knows, that no *Gentleman*, whether of the *Laity* or *Clergy*, is intitled to a *Vote*, for a *Member* to represent you in *Parliament*, otherwise, than as being a *FREE CITIZEN*, or *FREE-HOLDER*.

Thus much I thought necessary to advertise you of, as well as the hurry of *Business*, and the *Shortness* of time would permit. As I am sensible, that whenever you have erred in your *Choice*, it has been for want of *due Information*, I shall never let slip any opportunity of conveying such *Truths* to your *Ears*, as may be conducive to your *Freedom* and *Wealth*; to promote which, and to approve my *Love* and *Esteem* for you, is, and ever shall be, the constant *Endeavor*, as it is the utmost *Ambition* of,

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Your most affectionate Brother,

Dublin

Aug. 18th

1748.

and faithful Fellow-Citizen

C. Lucas.

